DRAM

New Series

JUNE M·CM·XXIII

Number 29

SPECIAL NUMBER

CONTAINING

LIST OF AFFILIATED SOCIETIES MEMBERS OFFICERS OF THE LEAGUE

and the

COUNCIL'S REPORT

to be presented at the

ANNUAL MEETING

for particulars of which see page 3 of cover

CENTRAL SCHOOL of SPEECH TRAINING and DRAMATIC ART

Principal
MISS ELSIE FOGERTY, L.R.A.M.

SUMMER SCHOOL STRATFORD-on-AVON July 27th to August 11th

Full course of Speech Training, Recitation and Dramatic Work, Voice Classes, Phonetics, Lectures, Playmaking and Production.

Miss Elsie Fogerty will lecture on School Plays.

Mr. Clarence Stretton, Director of English, Cleveland University, will lecture on "Producing in Little Theatres."

For particulars apply to-

ANNUAL REPORT

N submitting the fourth Annual Report of the British Drama League, the Council are able to record a year of steady progress. It is true there has been no outstanding incident, such as the International Theatre Exhibition, which was opened at the Victoria and Albert Museum on the eve of our last Annual Meeting. The satisfactory proof of the League's growth is to be found in the increased membership, which now stands at 712, as against 571 at this date last year. There have been 81 resignations, leaving a net increase of 157. The 222 new members include 145 individual

members and 87 affiliated societies.

The growth in the number of affiliated societies is to be attributed largely to the increased facilities which the League is now able to offer, both in regard to its library of plays and to the loan of costumes. We are indebted to the Educational Settlements Association, which last year gave us a sum of £30 to be expended on books, and we are glad to say that they have granted £20 for next year. The extra work imposed on the office owing to the increased use made of the library has rendered it necessary to engage the services of a librarian, who works full time at the office, and helps in various ways. In regard to costumes, the League was informed last December by Miss Consuelo de Reyes, of Citizen House, Bath, that she was ready to placce at the disposal of our affiliated societies the entire wardrobe accumulated by herself and the late Miss Frances Hope during their management of the Citizen House Players, Bath. Besides a large number of fantastic dresses, the wardrobe contains Celtic, Saxon, Mediaeval, Shakespearean, and Eighteenth Century costumes, curtains and properties. In placing this collection at our disposal, Miss de Reyes has conferred a great benefit, not only on the affiliated societies, but also on the League itself.

The help we offer in the production of plays is being increasingly taken advantage of, and assistance has been given on various occasions by Miss Edith Craig, Miss

Gwen Lally, Mr. Harold Scott, Miss de Castro, and Mrs. Errock.

Lectures and addresses have been delivered at Crayford, Pangbourne, Great Waltham, Chelmsford, Harpenden, Oxford, Tunbridge Wells, Stanwell, Henfield, Newport Pagnell, Oxted, by Mr. Whitworth, Miss Gwen Laily, Mr. E. J. Dent, Miss de Castro,

and Mr. Mordaunt Shairp.

The Autumn Conference of Affiliated Societies was held at Stockport on November 25th. Mr. Geoffrey Whitworth took the chair. Delegates representing the following affiliated societies were present:—Altrincham Garrick Repertory Society, Bolton W.E.A. (Dramatic Branch, Burnage Garden Village Players, Buxton Branch British Drama League, Clitheroe Grammar School, Collingham Players, Keswick Village Players, Lancashire Catholic Players, Leeds Repertory, Levenshulme Players, Leicester, Longsight C.W.S., Manchester Playgoers' Club, Manchester and Salford W.E.A., Marple Dramatic and Literary Society, New Earswick, Sheffield Playgoers, Shirehampton Dramatic Society, Stockport Garrick Society, Unnamed Society, Manchester.

The matters discussed included the question of authors' royalties, and the following resolution was passed: "That a list of authors prepared to accept 5% of gross takings (less tax) for a 3-act play, and 2½% for a 1-act play be drawn up. Further, that Mr. Geoffrey Whitworth and Mr. F. Sladen-Smith be requested to draw up a formula on the lines of Mr. Shaw's definition, to which affiliated societies should subscribe." Mr. C. W. Sorensen (New Earswick) moved, Mr. S. M. Fox (Keswick) seconded, and it wasunanimously resolved, "That Mr. Geoffrey Whitworth be empowered to accept for the British Drama League any reasonable counter-terms submitted by the Authors' Society." Mr. Geoffrey Whitworth raised the question of the magazine, with a view to securing a larger circulation. It was generally felt that the magazine was not adequate to the growing needs of the League, and the hope was expressed that it might be enlarged and made to include a larger proportion of articles of general interest.

A letter was read from Miss de Reyes, of Bath, inviting the League to hold its next Autumn Conference at Bath. It was moved by Mr. Doran (Manchester Playgoers), and seconded by Miss Radford (Sheffield Playgoers) and resolved: "That the Council of the League be asked to accept this invitation on behalf of the Conference."

In regard to the resolution concerning authors' royalties, it was hoped that there would be something more definite to report to the Annual Meeting, but negotiations between the Authors' Society and the League have been protracted, and the Council has felt unwilling to commit itself to any drastic action in the matter until the co-operation, or at least the acquiescence, of the Authors' Society has been obtained. The situation is a somewhat complicated one. The Play Agent in whose hands most of the amateur dramatic rights lie is at present entirely unconvinced of the possibility or necessity for a change, while some of the larger amateur dramatic societies fear that a royalty system would involve them in greater charges than are payable under the present system.

On the Friday evening preceding the Conference a Reception was given to members of the Conference at the Garrick Hall, under the chairmanship of the Mayor of Stockport. There was music and a play, Evreinov's "A Merry Death," admirably acted

and produced by members of the Garrick Society.

On the Saturday evening a public meeting was held, at which Mr. Bridges Adams and Mr. Alfred Lugg spoke on the Amateur and the National Theatre.

Foreign Drama.—On the occasion of the visit of Monsieur and Madame Sylvain to London Coliseum last November, the members of the Committees gave a luncheon in their honour, at which the president of the League, Lord Howard de Walden, presided.

At the obsequies of Madame Sarah Bernhardt in Paris, Mr. James K. Hackett represented the British Drama League, and informed us that the "Drama League

Tribute was deeply appreciated."

On March 26th, by kind permission of the Administrator of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, Mr. W. Starkie, Professor of Spanish Literature at Trinity College, Dublin, gave an interesting lecture on "Tendencies of Modern Spanish Drama." His

Excellency the Spanish Ambassador presided.

Plays and Publications.—The circulation of the magazine remains stationary, and in its present form the Council feels that it is unlikely that this can be increased beyond that of the actual membership of the League. The Plays and Publications Committee have considered the possibility of enlarging the magazine so as to make it saleable to the general public, but decided that while an improvement was indubitably desirable, in the absence of funds and on its present basis Drama cannot be substantially improved. The enlargement of the magazine is of course primarily a financial question, and while as regards its ordinary activities the League is not yet self-supporting, the Council feels that it cannot recommend any enlargement of the magazine until a special fund is provided for the purpose. (See also under National Theatre.)

The first batch of plays published by the Shakespeare Head Press appeared in November last, and contained "False Premises," by Laurence Housman; "Upstream," by Clifford Bax; "The Man who ate the Popomack," by W. J. Turner; and "Advertising April," by Herbert Farjeon and Horace Horsnell. The reception of these plays by the Press was very favourable. The play, "Advertising April," was subsequently produced at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, and at the Criterion Theatre, London. It is hoped that a further batch of plays may be announced for publication during the

autumn.

A large number of MS. plays continue to be sent in for criticism. Reports on 67 plays have been sent to members during the past twelve months. The play competition of two of the affiliated societies, viz., the Sheffield Playgoers and the Ashburton Group.

Red Lion Square, were also adjudicated by the League.

National Theatre.—In pursuance of the resolution passed at the Annual Meeting, 1921, the Council has been considering by what means it could best help in promoting the establishment of a National Theatre, and a special sub-committee consisting of Mr. W. Lee Matthews, Mr. John Drinkwater, Mr. Lewis Casson, Mr. William Archer, the Master of the Temple, and Mr. Geoffrey Whitworth has drawn up a recommendation, which is now under consideration by the Shakespeare Memorial National Theatre

Committee. It is to be hoped that new propaganda may be soon undertaken and that the League's offer may be accepted by the S.M.N.T. Committee.

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Drama and Education.—On Friday, December 29th, the League held its annual meeting in connection with the Conference of Educational Association at University College, Gower Street. The subject chosen was "The Duty of the Educational World to the idea of a National Theatre." The speakers included Miss Lena Ashwell, the Master of the Temple, and Mr. Cloudesley Brereton.

A special competition among London clubs connected with social and educational work has been organized, the final competition being held at the Mary Ward Settlement on Wednesday, May 16th.

The trophy for the best scene from a costume play lasting ten minutes was kindly painted for the League by Miss Clare Atwood, and was presented by Miss Lena Ashwell to the Wolverley Street Men's Institute, Bethnal Green, who acted a scene from "Abraham Lincoln." The Rev. Stewart Headlam, Mr. Cyril Wood, and Mr. Geoffrey Whitworth also spoke.

By request of the League, Mr. Arthur Wontner kindly judged the Recitation Competition of the London Working Boys' Club on March 7th; and Miss Elsie Fogerty the Annual Competition of the Social Institutes Union for Women and Girls on April 28th.

British Empire Exhibition 1924.- Negotiations between the British Drama League and the Committee of the British Empire Exhibition 1924 have been continued during the past year. As mentioned in our last Report, a Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Norman McKinnell presented a scheme for a dramatic season at the Exhibition to illustrate in a series of twelve plays the history of the English Stage from the time of the Mediaeval plays to the end of the Nineteenth century. This scheme was considered by the Exhibition Authorities, and it was found that the expenses of building the theatre would amount to over £20,000, and the risk of the season itself could not be undertaken by the Exhibition The Council naturally regrets this decision, for it holds that dramatic art can only properly be represented by the acted play. But, as an alternative, the Council put forward a scheme for an exhibition of theatre models and designs to illustrate the work of the British Stage, particularly in relation to national life. The Council is glad to say that this suggestion has been accepted by the Exhibition Authorities, who have placed at our disposal a gallery of 1,000 square feet in the Fine Art Palace. In this way the Theatre will at least take its place upon equal terms with Painting, Sculpture, and other Fine Arts, and, as we believe, for the first time in any such Exhibition in London.

Finance.-The financial situation of the League is shown in the summary of receipts and payments. While, as elsewhere stated, the membership of the League shows an increase, the financial position is less satisfactory than it was at the same date last year. This is to be accounted for by the fact that the Ball given for the funds of the League in February last resulted in a profit of only £120, as against £427 from a similar dance in January, 1922. It must also be remembered that during next year the League will not have to its credit the amount derived from the sale of Lecture tickets during the International Theatre Exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum. These facts are a timely indication that the financial basis of the League cannot be regarded as secure so long as it depends on such adventitious aid as that obtainable from Balls and Lectures. A membership of at least 1,000 is the only reasonable guarantee of the League's continuance, and therefore it is felt that no effort should now be spared to achieve such a membership. The Council regrets to notice the falling-off of old members from time to time. Had every member maintained his membership the League's register would now number considerably over 1,000. Not only, therefore, does the Council hope that new members will be forthcoming, but that members now on our The League's exhibit at the British Empire register will continue their support. Exhibition will involve a considerable expenditure which will have to be met if our part in the Exhibition is to be played in a worthy manner.

The BRITISH DRAMA LEAGUE

PRESIDENT:

LORD HOWARD DE WALDEN

LICE-PRESIDENTS .

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The Earl of CRAWFORD and BALCARRES VISCOUNT ROTHERMERE Miss LENA ASHWELL, O.B.E. Sir VINCENT CAILLARD

The Right Hon. J. H. THOMAS, M.P.

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Sir James Barrie Robert Bridges Sir Cecil Harcourt Smith

John Galsworthy Prof. Gilbert Murray

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H. Sanderson Furniss Miss E. M. Gilpin Ben Greet Rev. Stewart Headlam

Sir Sidney Lee COMMUNITY THEATRE COMMITTEE.

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Miss Christopher St. John Herbert Trench

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Michael Sadler Mrs. Gordon Stables Frank Swinnerton Miss Owen John F. Sladen Smith
Sir Israel Gollancz W. J. Turner Allan Wade

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Miss Clare Atwood Miss Edith Craig Owen Little Norman Macdermott Albert Rutherston John Garside Edward Knoblock Randolph Schwabe

> FINANCE COMMITTEE. Robert Mond (Chairman)

W. Lee Mathews Sir Herbert Morgan Charles Tennyson Arthur Whitworth

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John Galsworthy H. Granville-Barker Mrs. H. Granville-Barker George Grossmith Frederick Harrison Sir Charles Hawtrey Lord Howard de Walden Barry Jackson

Sir Gerald du Maurier Napier Miles Miss P. Neilson Terry Walter Payne Alec Rea Sir Michael Sadleir 1. E. Vedrenne.

AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

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Society.					Secretary.
Ackworth School Dramatic S		***	***		Miss M. F. Hartley
Acock's Green Shakespearear	Society	***	***	***	William Adams, Esq.
Actors' Association	***	**	***	***	Alfred Lugg, Esq.
Actors' Church Union	***	***	***		Rev. Donald Hole
Aldbury Group	***	***	***		Miss Emma K. Crawford
Alleyn's School Debating Soc	ciety	***			R. M. S. Pasley, Esq.
Altrincham Garrick Society	***	***	***		T. W. Byron, Esq.
Amateur Dramatic Club, Car		***			R. J. H. Tindal-Robertson
					Miss Isabel Horn
		***	***	***	
	C!I-	**	***		Miss Shackleton
Aspirants Dramatic Reading		***	***		Mrs. Mabel Luckham
Badminton House School Grou	nb	***	***	***	Miss B. Baker
Balham Settlement	***			***	E. J. Fullwood, Esq.
Mrs. Ball's Group, Pangbourn			***	***	Mrs, M. F. Ball
Banbury Municipal School Ol	d Pupils' I)ramati	Society		Wm. A. B. Webb, Esq.
Barnsley Playgoers' Society		***	***		J. B. Bassford, Esq.
Barry Christian Fellowship					J. B. Price Hughes, Esq.
Bath Citizen Players			***	***	Miss C. de Reyes
Bath Playgoers' Society		***			Harold Downs, Esq.
D I C C III					Horace Fleming, Esq.
	***	***	***	***	
Belmont House Society	***	***	***	***	Mrs, David Gimson
Ben Greet Players	***	* * *	***	* * *	Ben Greet, Esq.
Ben Greet Academy	***	***	***	***	Miss Lilian Simpson
Bloomsbury Reading Circle			***	***	Dr. Wheeler
Bolton Branch W. E. A. Pla	y Reading	Circle	***	***	Miss Annie Benson
Boston Spa Amateur Dramat	ic Society	***			Miss M. Padman
Bourne Dramatic Club					Mrs. L. Isobel Clare
Bournemouth Dramatic and		Club			Miss Dorothy Mead
Bourneville Dramatic Society		· · ·			Miss D. K. Thompson
				***	Miss G. Aston
Bradford Playgoers' Society	***	***	***	2 < 0	
Brigg Dramatic Society	***	***	***		Miss Trees
Bristol Group	***	***	***	***	Mrs. Rogers
Bristol Playgoers' Club	***	***	***	***	J. H. Holloway, Esq.
Buckland Dinham Players	***	***	***		Mrs. C. R. Starey
Burfield Amateur Dramatic S	ociety	***	***	***	Miss Janet Harris
Burnage Garden Village Ama	teur Drama	atic Socie	tv	***	Charles Eastwood, Esq.
Bushey Grove Dramatic Socie		**			Miss L. M. Wheeler
					Mrs. Eastwood
Caldey Players	***				Very Rev. Dom. Wilfrid Up
Cambs. Federation of Women		AKK MC	***		Miss Warrington
				***	John Robinson, Esq.
Cannon Street Baptist Church					
Carbonyl Dramatic Society	D	0	***	***	C. M. W. Grieb, Esq.
Castleford Y.M.C.A. Amateur		Society	***	* * *	Eric Brown, Esq.
Catholic Play Society		643	***	***	Rev. H. Kingsford
Central Commercial School	Players	***	***	***	Miss Adeline Gay
Central School of Speech Tra	ining and	Dramatic	Art		Miss Elsie Fogerty
Cercle Français, St. George's					Mme. André Rieder
Chaldon Group					Mrs. Jefferis
Champles Cl. 1					Miss Olive S. Pyke
	***	***	***	***	Mrs. M. E. Mayo
Charminster Women's Institu	te	***			
Chesterfield Settlement	***	***	***	***	Miss Gertrude Willoughby
Children's Theatre	***	***	***	***	Miss Elsa Lanchester
Christian Sunday School Dran		ty	***		Robert Brooks, Esq.
City of Leeds Training College	je	***		***	G. E. Wilkinson, Esq.
City of London College Dran	natic Societ			***	Edward Minshall, Esq.
City of London College Day S					Miss Carpenter
Claremont Literary and Dran					Miss Heywood
Clause C 1 1		.7		***	Alex. Devine, Esq.
	Duamatia	Cociety	***		W. W. Wilson, Esq.
College of the Resurrection	Dramatic	Society	***	***	11, 11, 11 115011, 1250,

Community Arts Association, Ca		1	***	***	Miss Nina Moise
Co-operative Holidays Associati	on	***		***	Henry P. Weston, Esq.
	***	***		***	Miss Frances Brown
County School for Boys, Ramsg		***	***	***	W. Valentine Goodram, Esq.
County School for Girls, Becke County School for Girls, Gravese		***		***	Miss Margery Fox
Crayford Educational Fellowship		***		**	Miss Jane E. Wills Miss L. White
Cyclone Players' Society		•	**	***	Miss Irene M. O'Hanlon
Darlington Branch I. L. P. Dr			***	***	John W. Hunter, Esq.
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Doncaster Folk House Dramatic			***		Miss Doris Guest
Dramatic Art Centre, Mary W			***		Miss Maude Scott
Dramatic Reading Society, Bris	stol Ur	niversity	***	***	Miss Beryl Brittain
Dramatic Section Polytechnic Sc	hool of	Speech	Training	***	Miss Louie Bagley
	***	***	***		George Humphrey, Esq.
Dumfries Playhouse Dramatic S	ection	***	***	***	Miss E. R. McCreadie
Duncan House School		***	***	***	Miss E. C. Wilson
Dundee Training College Drama	tic Soci	-	***	***	Miss Ellen C. Abbot
Dunsfold Group	-11 1	D	Cartan	***	Mrs. Hollins
Edinburgh Provincial Training C				***	Miss Mary Fraser
Edinburgh University English Li				***	The Secretary Miss G. E. Morris
		reland	***	***	Miss Edith M. Castello
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Fit I d Did I C			***	***	Miss E. Blake
	***	**			Cecil Sharp, Esq.
Exeter Drama League		***	***		E. H. Cooke, Esq.
Federation of London Working		Clubs			Charles M. Wrench, Esq.
E7 44 4 4 4 5 5 6 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5	***	***	***		Mrs. Lomas
Folk House, College Green, Br	istol	***	***		A. J. Foyle, Esq. Miss Sylvia Brown
Froebel College	***		***		Miss Sylvia Brown
Girls' Grammar School, Clitheroe	, Litera	ary Societ	y		Miss P. Stafford
	***	55%	***		Rutland Boughton, Esq.
Glossop Playgoers' Society		411.61	A = 1		Miss Hilda Gould
	* * *	***	***	***	Mrs. B. Bassett
Gravesend W. E. A. Study Circle		**-	* * *		Miss A. K. Clarke Miss F. M. Millward
Grayshott Amateur Dramatic So	ciety		***	***	Mrs. L. Franklin
Great Waltham Players Greenleaf Theatre	***	**	***	***	Maxwell Armfield, Esq.
Green Room Amateur Dramatic	Societs	,	***	***	J. A. McFarlane, Esq.
Grey Coat Hospital Staff Dram			***		Miss Steele
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Hammersmith Playhouse Circle					A. W. Pilbeam, Esq.
Hampshire House Dramatic Soc		***			Mrs. A. Sainsbury
	***	***	***	***	L. Williams, Esq.
	***		***		The Manager
Hawarden County School Old S	Scholars	s' Drama	tic Socie	ety	A. Lyon, Esq., M.A.
Helés School, Exeter, Dramatic	Society	***	ecc	***	J. R. Cumming, Esq., B.A.
Helensburgh Amateur Dramatic		***	***	KKK.	Miss Nance Anderson
Herefordshire Amateur Dramatic			***	***	Miss Marjorle Hatton
Herefordshire Federation of Won	nen's Ir	nstitutes			Mrs. Ord Capper
Huddersfield Thespians		***		***	Miss E. C. Gilmore
Hull Shakespeare and Playgoers'					T. Sheppard, Esq, M.Sc.
		Carletu		***	H. Boys Stones, Esq. The Secretary
Imperial College Musical and Dr					Miss Fredman
		***			Conrad Kingsley, Esq.
Kensington Players					Miss F. F. Ketcher
	***	***		***	Mrs. F. E. Doran
					The General Secretary
League of Arts Dramatic Circle					Miss Kemp Potter
					Lothian Small, Esq.
Leicester Drama Society			***		Frank Clewlow, Esq.
Leominster Amateur Dramatic an	1 Play	Reading	Society		Miss Ellen S. Church

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Longsight Dramatic So	ciety	***		***	
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Newport Pagnell W. I	E. A.			***	
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Pivot Club					
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